

THE ALMA RECORD.

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ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 11, 1918

WHOLE NUMBER 2038

BIG RALLY HERE FRIDAY EVENING

Liberty Loan Meeting to be Held
in Alma High School
Auditorium.

FAMOUS JACKIE BAND HERE

Famous Great Lakes Band Enroute
to New York Will Stop Here
for Meeting.

The various committees of the Third Liberty Loan are now intensely covering Gratiot county and it is very probable that there will not be a man or woman in the county, who will not be invited to purchase Liberty bonds of the Third Liberty Loan during the month.

The campaign in Alma started off with a rush yesterday, with the solicitors making a thorough canvass from house to house, and it will be continued until it is certain that no more subscriptions can be secured in the city.

The city was placarded heavily the fore part of the week under the direction of County Chairman J. W. Robinson, in preparation for the drive in the city which started yesterday. The final work of the committee in their respect was to place Liberty bells on the door knobs of every home in the city, to wake the residents up to the fact that the drive was on and that Alma's committee was out seeking to make Gratiot and particularly the city of Alma go way over the top on the Third Liberty Loan.

A number of workers are out for each ward, and are working under the city committee which consists of William A. Bahlke and L. A. Sharp. The committee for the first ward consists of James E. Mitchell, Rev. W. M. Duffey, C. E. Benedict, Fred Rowland and Alex Brunner. The second ward committee is J. M. Montigel, F. L. Glass, Frank Smith, S. L. Bennett, and Harry Gerber. The third ward committee consists of Carl H. Washburn, John A. Chick, F. N. Notestein, W. B. Amshury and F. E. West. In the fourth ward Jotham Allen, Henry Soule, F. E. Pollasky, Wm. Knudson, and R. H. Wilcox are out after subscriptions to the loan.

Friday evening there will be a big Liberty Loan rally here which will be staged in the Alma high school auditorium, at which time the famous Jackie band of the Great Lakes Training school will appear in Alma, stopping off here for the night on its tour through the country to New York city, in the interests of the Third Liberty Loan. Alma is indeed fortunate in being able to get the famous Jackie band to come to cities as small as Alma. The band is under the direction of Lieut. John Phillip Sousa, and is known over the entire country as one of the best of the many service bands that the government has.

The band will arrive in Alma from the west Friday night at 7:50 and will remain in this city over night and will go to Saginaw at 10:20 a. m. Saturday.

In connection with the big rally to be held at the high school, there will also be a big military parade, in which the Alma high school cadets, the Jackie band, workers of the Liberty Loan, and probably military trucks will take part.

It is expected that with the list of speakers for the evening, that Alma will stage the greatest patriotic rally which has ever been seen in this city.

It is impossible to give anything like an accurate estimate of the number of the subscriptions this week, as reports from the various committee men are still out. It is certain however, that Alma will again do her part, if everyone who can will come across.

TOO MUCH SMITH.

Little Else Can be Found on Next
Alma City Council

Too much Smith, is what it looks like when one casts his eye over the list of aldermen elected to serve the city of Alma this coming year.

Out of eight aldermen on the council only three of them will be Smiths. First there is Mr. Ezra L. Smith, alderman from the first ward, elected for the first time, after having been appointed to fill a vacancy last term. Then we have with us, Mr. Frank F. Smith, alderman of the second ward, truly democratic like the ward from which he hails. Next in order comes Mr. A. R. Smith, alderman from the third ward, like the other two Smiths, elected to office for the first time.

Judging from the looks of things the fourth ward was overlooked when the Smiths were passed around. It has no Alderman Smith.

PATRIOTIC MEETINGS

Numerous Patriotic Meetings Being
Held in County.

Patriotic meetings are being held at various places over the county. Local men are giving talks on the Third Liberty Loan, Production and Conservation, Boys' Working Reserve and other patriotic subjects.

Thursday, March 28, Jotham Allen and Blaine Curtis talked on production and the Boys' Working Reserve at Elwell. The local church was well filled and besides the talks a short program of music provided by Elwell people was enjoyed by all.

Thursday, April 4th, Mr. Washburn, Prof. King, O. L. Smith and Blaine Curtis were out to New Haven Center. Will Traub, local enrolling officer for the Boys' Working Reserve, acted as chairman. Although some of the farmers had begun their spring work a goodly number came out.

J. N. McCall and Rev. Roberts were at Sumner Friday evening where they talked to a crowded house.

Wm. Bahlke, Jotham Allen and J. W. Robinson were at Riverdale Saturday evening. The local band played a number of pieces which helped collect the people in the hall. W. E. Swope, enrolling officer for the Boys' Working Reserve, acted as chairman.

Mr. Allen talked on Production, Mr. Bahlke on the Third Liberty Loan, Mr. Robinson reported on the campaign's progress and Blaine Curtis explained the Boys' Working Reserve.

Forest Hill, Sickles North Star and other points will be reached in this way.

SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION MONDAY

Voters Will Be Asked to Give
\$45,000 for New Ward School
for the City of Alma.

A meeting of the voters of the school district has been called by the school board to be held in the auditorium of the high school Monday evening, April 15, at which time the voters legally entitled to vote on such matters will be asked to vote to raise \$45,000 for the proposed new ward school.

The needs of such a school have been set up before the public time and again during the course of the year in the columns of the Alma Record, the great increases in the number of pupils in the schools being the vital factor which makes the new school necessary.

Attention has not, however, been directed very strongly to the fact that the assembly room in the city hall is being used as a class room for a couple of lower grades, a place ill suited for the needs of a school, and one where a great deal more danger must lurk for the little fellows, morning, noon and night and at recess, when their only play-ground is the street directly in front of the city hall, where autos, trucks, and wagons are constantly going in one direction or the other. The city council has called attention to this fact and has deplored the situation which makes it necessary to use this room, in the city hall, for a school room.

The building which is being sought by the school board is a good, modern five-story structure, which will be a source of pride to the citizens of Alma, and which at the same time will be large enough to take care of the school children of this rapidly growing community, for some years to come, before it will be found necessary to build again, unless Alma has a still greater boom than she has had during the past few years.

The plans of the structure are on display in the windows of Murphy's drug store, where those interested in the matter, may view them and gain a good idea of the proposed new structure.

STARTS MONDAY

Epler Murder Case Set to Start Next
Monday in Circuit Court.

The Epler murder case which has been hanging fire since the arrest of Albert Eichorn of Ithaca, John F. Brennan of Flint, and Inez Johnson of Alma, in December, charged with complicity in the death of Miss Beatrice Epler on the night of September 4th, is due to start Monday in the circuit court, unless the unforeseen takes place.

The case of Eichorn will be the first taken up. This case was up a month ago, and at that time on the representations of the attorneys for the defense that some highly important witnesses were ill, it was laid over until April 15th. At the same time a change of venue was denied the defense.

It is rumored that the attorneys in the case are ready to start the trial this coming week.

TELEPHONE CO. MERGER STOPPED

Injunction Served on Union and
Bell Telephone Companies
by Valley City Company.

TO AFFECT THIS SECTION

Merger When Made Will Make One
System in Gratiot and Adjoining
Counties.

Plans of the Union Telephone company and the Michigan State Telephone company, as this portion of the Bell system is known, to merge in Gratiot and other central Michigan counties has been indefinitely held up and delayed by an injunction secured by the Valley City Telephone company of Saginaw, the independent company operating in that city.

The plans of these two companies have been going on for about two years and it had been expected that the proposition would be put through within the next few weeks, when the injunction was slapped up against them and called a halt in the proceedings, which will hold up the merger for a time at least.

The Union and Bell interests had a petition ready to file with the state railroad commission seeking permission to exchange and purchase certain of the exchanges and toll lines in several of the central Michigan counties. The deal would have merged the interests of the two companies through this district and made just one telephone system.

It is understood that the deal to be made would transfer from the Bell system to the Union, all of its exchanges in portions of Mecosta, Isabella, Montcalm, Gratiot, Saginaw, Ionia, Clinton and Shiawassee counties where the Union Telephone company now operates. The deal would place with the Union company approximately 3,500 telephone stations and 750 miles of toll lines. With this addition the Union Telephone company would operate about 15,000 stations and 2,800 miles of toll lines.

The Union company also desires to sell and exchange with the Bell company all of its exchanges, toll lines and toll stations in Clare, Midland, Bay and Genesee counties. The Bell company would buy approximately 1,500 telephone stations and 275 miles of toll circuit. The Union company would pay to the Bell company \$126,000 in addition to the property which it would turn over to the Bell company for its property.

If the deal goes through eventually, as is expected, subscribers on either Bell or Union lines would be able to get direct connection with all of the lines operated by the two companies, as well as any other lines in this country or Canada.

Seen here the fore part of the week General Manager W. J. Melchers of the Union Telephone company, stated that, while the injunction had tied matters up for the present, there was little question but what it would finally be ironed out and the deal go through. He also stated that a \$22,000 switchboard has already been purchased for the combined office that the company will have in this city when the deal goes through. He also stated that much more material had been purchased with the expectation that the deal would be closed shortly as the injunction had not been looked for.

WORKING RESERVE

Encouraging Reports are Coming in
From County on Boys' Reserve

Encouraging reports are coming in regarding the Boys' Working Reserve. Breckenridge and Wheeler schools report every eligible boy enrolled.

Mr. Pulman Taylor held an enrolling meeting at Elwell last week and the boys took their enrolling cards and most of them have brought them back and received their certificates. B. C. Hubble, enrolling officer for St. Louis is planning an enrolling meeting for next week.

Jotham Allen, who is acting as enrolling officer for Alma and vicinity, is enrolling the Alma boys. He is showing his interest in production and faith in the boys to help by assisting some of the other enrolling officers with their boys.

Ithaca, Riverdale, North Star, Perinton, and other points report boys enrolling.

It is quite evident that Gratiot county boys are realizing the need for food and are lining up to do their best to feed the Allies. In other words they are patriotic.

"Huck and Tom" at the Idlehour, tonight. (Friday).—adv.

BIG EDITION

Record's Industrial Issue Will Appear
April 25.

The industrial issue of the Alma Record will appear Thursday, April 25th, and if hard work will turn the trick, this issue promises to be the finest industrial issue on the city of Alma which has ever come from the presses of a newspaper.

Every effort will be made to touch every phase of the city's life, industrial, financial, social, etc.

The Alma Record of that week will be much larger than usual, and will contain a number of extra pages, exclusively devoted to the interests of the city. Several thousand papers will be printed that week, as the Record believes that there will be a great demand for extra papers. Orders for the industrial issue should be placed early.

GRIFFIN, CONVICTED, LET OFF EASILY

Placed on Probation by Judge
Brown but Must Make Good
on Sum Embezzled.

William G. Griffin, one time manager of the Alma Grain & Lumber company of this city, who was arrested last fall charged with embezzlement of funds from this company and was convicted on this charge less than two weeks ago, was let down easily by Judge Brown in circuit court Thursday, and it is now up to Griffin as to whether or not he will serve time.

It is understood that Griffin will be on probation for the next five years, and that he is required to pay back to the Alma Grain & Lumber company the sum of money which was embezzled from the concern. He is also required, it is said, to pay the costs of the trial.

Judge Brown of Saginaw presided in this case for Circuit Judge E. J. Moynet, and gave the decision some six days after Griffin had been found guilty at the hands of a jury in circuit court.

Many people were rather surprised that Griffin got off so easily, following his conviction on the charge which had been made against him, but it is believed that the fact that Griffin is now making good in Grand Rapids, had much to do with the decision of the judge, as did the family of the defendant.

DOING GOOD WORK

Red Cross Work in Schools is a New
Feature.

Persons who are not directly interested in the Alma public schools, may not be aware of the fact that teachers and pupils have made some contributions to the Red Cross and related war activities. The teachers have heard the appeals and in addition to attending to the regular school duties, have at no little sacrifice, given their time and efforts to this worthy cause.

Among the contributions are Junior Red Cross membership fees amounting to \$123.25. The high school domestic art department has made 36 wristlets, 759 compresses, bandages and eye-wipes. The Athena society of the high school has contributed 10 sweaters, 4 scarfs, 8 wristlets, and 2,000 gun-wipes. The manual training department has made 188 needles, and in addition the boys have made 50 more for home purposes.

At the present time the superintendent and teachers are vigorously promoting the sale of thrift stamps which has already reached large proportions. Pupils from the third to the eighth grades inclusive are devoting a portion of every Thursday afternoon to sewing garments intended for the Belgians.

Melting pots have been placed in the union school, the proceeds from which will materially increase the Red Cross fund. The Athena society of the high school presented on Wednesday evening of this week, "Rosemary" the proceeds, amounting to \$800, were placed in the Red Cross fund. Sometime in May, the high school chorus will present "The Nautical Knot" for the benefit of the Red Cross fund.

Spring athletics, base ball and track, in the high school have been abolished in order that the boys may devote more time to gardening and agricultural pursuits. Brief speeches have been made by superintendent and principal in an endeavor to enlist the boys' services in this work.

The activities mentioned above indicate what has been done, and what is being done. New responsibilities will be assumed by our schools with a spirit of patriotic devotion as they present themselves.

SCHOOLS HAVING THRIFT CAMPAIGN

Thousands of Thrift Stamps
Being Sold in Public Schools
This Week.

CAMPAIGN STARTED MONDAY

Union School Building Reported Thirty
Hundred and Ninety Sales
of Stamps.

A Thrift Stamp campaign is being earnestly waged in the Alma public schools this week and it is expected that before the week is over that the youngsters of Alma will have added several hundred dollars to the great sum which is being loaned to the government in its efforts to down the Hun terror.

So far this week the campaign has been devoted to the ward schools and the lower grades, and a great majority of the young children of the public schools have availed themselves of the opportunity to purchase thrift stamps, to aid their government and also start the savings habit.

The campaign has been the outgrowth of the work of the instructors in the various grades, and in numerous cases, with the parents of the pupils who have urged them to avail themselves of the opportunities which thrift savings stamps offer.

The thrift stamp campaign was opened in the Alma high school this morning, it being held up in the high school because of the shortage of thrift stamp cards, which were not made available until today.

Fifty dollars' worth of thrift stamps taken to the high school today were quickly taken up by the pupils and it is very evident that a great many more dollars' worth of thrift stamps will be used in the high school ere the campaign is brought to a close.

No figures are available on which to base an estimate of the total amount which has so far been invested in thrift stamps in the public schools, but the Alma Record hopes that in another week it will be able to give the exact sales from the campaign.

Figures given out just as the Record was about to go to press show that up to last night 1,390 thrift stamps have been sold already in the union school, this being \$347.50 worth of Uncle Sam's stamps, and is just part of the message that the public school students of Alma are sending to Kaiser Wilhelm.

MOST WILL RETURN

All Teachers in Schools Offered Better
Contracts for Next Year.

While the list of teachers for the public schools this coming year will not be available for a few weeks yet, it is certain that most of those who have been teaching here this past year will return again next year, contracts having been signed by most of the instructors.

While a few of the teachers will leave, there are still one or two who are expected to return, who have not yet signed up their contracts for the coming year. It is expected that these one or two exceptions will have their contracts turned in, signed, before many days have passed.

It is understood that each and every one of the teachers in the Alma public schools has been offered a contract for the coming year which calls for \$125.00 more than the contract of the present school year. Good work on the part of the instructors is one of the reasons for the boost in salary for the coming year and another is the startling shortage of good instructors. Many of the instructors in the schools of the state have been young men who have been caught in the draft and are now in the army, or are liable for service under the selective service laws, so that there is no certainty that they would be available in another year. It has resulted in an increased demand for instructors which has had much to do with salary boosting, to a figure more near comparable with the results which are expected to be achieved with the youngsters of America, whose future is really being moulded by these instructors.

POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT

I wish to announce that I will be a candidate on the Republican ticket at the August primary election for the nomination of Register of Deed. Thanking you in advance for your support. I am

Sincerely yours,
Bird J. Tucker.

37-2t.
Eat Victory Bread! its good to eat. 36-4t-c. M.

MARRIED SATURDAY

Popular Alma Girl Weds Big Rapids Man Here Saturday.

Miss Bethel Cummings, well known Alma young lady, was united in marriage Saturday afternoon at four o'clock, at the home of her parents, on Woodworth avenue, to Mr. Arthur E. Price of Big Rapids.

The wedding was a quiet affair, only a very few intimate friends and the relatives of the couple being present, when Rev. Duffy said the words which united their lives.

They left on the 4:50 Pere Marquette train for Grand Rapids where they were guests of Mrs. Price's relatives over Sunday. Monday they went to Big Rapids, where they are now at home to their numerous friends.

Mrs. Price for the past few years has been in the employ of Rowland & Johnson, in the capacity of clerk. She has been highly efficient there and greatly widened her already large circle of friends in this vicinity. She is a graduate of the local high school.

Mr. Price two years ago was the reporter and advertising man on the Alma Record and is now engaged with the Big Rapids Pioneer as an advertising man, where he is meeting with marked success.

The Record joins their many friends in extending congratulations for a bright and prosperous future.

Coming soon, Benjamin Chapin in "The Son of Democracy"—Idlehour.—adv.

WIN IN ORATORY AND DECALMATION

High School Takes Both Ends of
Sub-District Contest for the
First Time.

At the annual sub-district oratorical and declamation contest held at the local high school auditorium Friday night the representatives of Alma high school, in both of these contests won first honors and as a result will represent the sub-district at the district contests to be held in the near future. Miss Helen Mason won the contest for Alma high school in the oratorical contest and Miss Madge Johnson won the honors in the declamation contest.

The other schools represented in the sub-district contest were Ithaca, Breckenridge and Elsie. In the declamation contest Elsie won second honors and Ithaca tucked away the third place. In the oratorical contest the Ithaca representative won the second honors.

Miss Madge Johnson in her declamation, "The Stricken South," showed much natural ability and was easily the superior of the three other contestants for the honor, there never being a doubt in the minds of the audience as to the outcome.

Miss Helen Mason in her oration, "The Battle Line of Democracy," won an unusual and also highly a gratifying victory, when she was awarded every first from the judges of the contest, both in thought and in composition, and also in delivery.

This year's sub-district contest is believed to be the first in which Alma has won both the declamation and oratorical contests, and judging from the very evident superiority of the Alma contestants, the local school will make a strong bid for the honors in both contests at the district contest.

WHO VOTES

Who May Vote on School Question
Monday Night.

Because of a large number of inquiries the school board has asked that a list of those qualified to vote on the new school proposition Monday night be given. The qualifications follow:

A person must be a citizen of the U. S., be twenty-one years of age, and a resident of the district for at least three months prior to the time of voting, and in addition they must be owners of real or personal property assessed for school purposes in the district; electors who own property assessed for school taxes may vote taxes.

Where husband and wife own property jointly, which is taxed for school purposes, both may vote if otherwise qualified.

Purchasers of land on contract, who pay taxes on the land and live thereon may vote if otherwise qualified. Soldiers and soldiers' widows, exempt from taxes cannot vote unless parents or guardians of children on census list.

Members of a corporation or stock company are not considered individual tax payers. Payment of dog tax is not a qualification. The citizenship of a wife is determined by the citizenship of a husband. If he is not a citizen, she is not.

QUESTIONAIRES NOT RETURNED

Many Gratiot County Men Failed
to Return Questionnaires to
Draft Board.

ARE LISTED AS DESERTERS

Number of Men Are in Service, But
Failed to Make Proper Returns
to Board.

The names of a large number of men in Gratiot county, who failed to return questionnaires to the draft board, have been posted. These men are listed as deserters. A number are in the service, but failed to make a proper return to the county board, showing that they are in the service. The board is now seeking the men who failed to return their questionnaires. The list follows:

- 246—Arthur Lee Martin, Alma.
- 287—Arthur Joe Loomis, Ithaca.
- 317—Emmer Fisher, St. Louis.
- 329—Harry F. Hapner, Alma.
- 380—Edward John Graham, St. Louis.
- 447—Thos. Raymond Wilcox, Alma.
- 448—Merritt Beatson Miller, Alma.
- 519—Ross Elmer, Gahler, Alma.
- 542—Lloyd Berry, Alma.
- 582—Karl Misiwieh, Alma.
- 638—Charles Potho, Alma, Michigan.
- 658—Charles E. Root, Alma, Mich.
- 690—John Lester Powell, Ithaca, Mich.
- 780—Oral Hoover, Alma, Mich.
- 795—John Poliyosh, 5137 Berlin Alley, Pittsburgh, Penna.
- 801—George Siskho, Alma, Mich.
- 805—Roy Jefferson Gulick, Alma, Michigan.
- 811—Mike Kozik, Ashley, Mich.
- 833—Alex Stenman, 2159 Berline Ave Chicago, Ill.
- 835—Frank Edward Miller, Alma, Mich.
- 842—Don Edward Harrison, St. Louis Mich.
- 853—Joseph LaRue, St. Louis, Mich.
- 871—George Laverne Naldrrett, Ithaca, Mich.
- 906—Zedy Gohl, Bannister, Mich.
- 900—Florentyn Markovic, Ithaca, Mich.
- 1033—George Hordked, Breckenridge, Mich.
- 1089—Charley Samzone, Breckenridge Mich.
- 1127—Elgie Loachridge, Ashley, Mich.
- 1133—William H. Layman, Alma, Mich.
- 1166—John Skerl, Ashley, Mich.
- 1168—Lem Hufek, Wheeler, Mich.
- 1273—Morley Rickert, Alma, Mich.
- 1297—Guy Lee Ferry, Alma, Mich.
- 1214—Pete Muskin, Bannister, Mich.
- 1265—Lorenz Seantti, Ithaca, Mich.
- 1282—Benjamin Radford, St. Louis, Mich.
- 1299—Claude H. Jessup, Ithaca, Mich.
- 1301—Howard H. Greene, Ashley, Mich.
- 1302—Harley H. Schnepf, Riverdale, Mich.
- 1354—Julius V. Vlascik, Breckenridge, Mich.
- 1374—Charles Martin, Alma, R. F. D. Mich.
- 1376—Orville Hames Howe, Alma, Mich.
- 1380—Sylvester Sayres, 307 Robinson St., Flint, Mich.
- 1397—Elmo Richard Powell, Alma, Mich.
- 1397 1/2 B—Joe Prejza, Alma, Mich.
- 1412—Charles Hinderling, Elm Hall, Mich.
- 1431—George Owen Leonard, Elm Hall, Mich.
- 1467—John Frank Parris, Alma, Mich.
- 1475—Frank Tony Barone, Alma, Mich.
- 1498—John Doctor, Ithaca, Mich.
- 1558—Gabriel Novack, North Star, Mich.
- 1561—John Dzamba, Pompeii, Mich.
- 1639—Charles Carol, Alma, Mich.
- 1714—Walter Dorman, Alma, Mich.
- 1750—Winko Lash, Ashley, Mich.
- 1817—James Zdrubsky, 644 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.
- 1832—William Moline, Alma, Mich.
- 1833—Tony Capko, 1128-11th St. Moline, Illinois.
- 1807—John Van Doan, 424 Euclid Ave Alma, Mich.
- 1856—Mike Peter Rogan, Alma, Mich.
- 1857—George Wilbur Schnepfs, Alma, Mich.
- 1928—Frank Storick, Middleton, Mich.
- 1931—Daniel Nestle, Ithaca, Mich.
- 1941—Sam Carles, St. Louis, Mich.
- 1960—Joe Kosek, Ithaca, Mich.
- 2011—John Tallach, Middleton, Mich.
- 2030—Gust Kubican, Ithaca, Mich.
- 2111—John H. Cochran, Slocum, Mich.
- 2130—John Ganhr, Bannister, Mich.
- 2133—Orla Harris, Middleton, Mich.
- 2156—Colonel L. Jarris, Ithaca, R. F. D. No. 7, Mich.
- 2177—Stanislav Seukanek, Esay, St. Flint, Mich.
- 2193—Daniel Ernest Wiser, Sumner, Mich.
- 2213—Paul Horvat, 6307 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
- 2225—Charles Ashley Dutt, Alma.
- 2243—Michael Trendel, Alma, Mich.
- 2258—Martin Coss, Bannister, Mich.
- 2262—Ralph Chisholm, Breckenridge, Mich.
- 2270—Frank Sintic, 232 S. Peoria St. Chicago, Ill.
- 2279—Delila Wiser, Sumner, Mich.
- 2287—Henry Caroly, Ithaca, Mich.
- 2306—John Ward Doyle, Breckenridge Mich.
- 2314—Mike Vicle, Ashley, Mich.

(Continued on page four)